

Opposition to Raised Bill No. 5429 An Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Development

March 13, 2022

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 5429 for the following reasons.

While well-intentioned development of affordable housing is a laudable goal, in reality it can have severe and damaging consequences for small towns that are simply not equipped to handle the infrastructure demands of high-density housing.

Superimposing semi-urban demands on small towns that have a single- train line and limited bus access is ill-conceived.

These negative impacts include:

Increased traffic in towns that already have numerous traffic and rush hour issues.

Exponential increases in demand for municipal services in towns that are already challenged to meet the needs of the current number of residents.

Increased demands on the public school systems.

Water pollution and flooding caused in part by increases in impervious surfaces.

Loss and disruption of natural habitats such as wetlands, wildlife and pollinator corridors,

Reductions in open space, and overall reductions in quality of life

Local development should remain under the jurisdiction of our local elected officials who have first-hand knowledge of historical trends. A one-size-fits-all approach to development such as this is ruinous and short-sighted.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Kodweis

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